

**Sept. —  
Dec.  
2021**

# Program Guide

*York County Department of Parks and Recreation*



**Hawk-watchers searching for Broad-winged  
Hawks at Rocky Ridge**



## **Public Star Watches**



York County Astronomical Society often hosts **public star watches** at the Rudy Park Observatory on the second Saturday of each month at 8pm.

Please visit

**[www.astro.york.com](http://www.astro.york.com)**

for information on this season's events.

**Wallace-Cross Mill  
Open Houses  
June-Sept**



**Kids Christmas Bird Count**



## **Follow us on Facebook & Twitter**

for up-to-date park information including events, natural history, fun photographs, and trail or sports field conditions! Check out our Instagram for fun photos!

## **Parks Advisory Board Meetings**

**Nixon Park, 6pm**

These meetings are open to the public.

**Tuesday, Sept 21**

**Tuesday, Nov 16**

## **Park Properties**

**Open Dawn until Dusk Daily**

## **Administrative Headquarters**

**(located at Rudy Park)**

**Mon - Fri 8:00am-4:30pm**

**(Closed daily 12:30-1:00pm)**

## **Hours of Operations**

### **Nixon Park**

### **Nature Center**

**Tue - Sat 8:30am-4:30pm**

**Sun 12noon-4:30pm**

## **Hanover Junction and New Freedom Train Stations**

**Sept 4 & 18**

**10am-4pm**

### **Wallace-Cross Mill**

**Sept 5 & 19**

**1:30-4:30pm**

## **Holiday Closures**

**Administrative Headquarters and Nixon Park Nature Center closed unless otherwise noted. Park grounds open dawn to dusk daily.**

**Mon, Oct 11 (Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day),  
Tues, Nov 2 (Election Day), Thurs, Nov 11 (Veterans  
Day), Thurs-Fri, Nov 25-26 (Thanksgiving Holiday), Fri-  
Sat, Dec 24-25 (Christmas Holiday), Fri, Dec 31 & Sat,  
Jan 1 (New Years Holiday)**

**[www.YorkCountyParks.org](http://www.YorkCountyParks.org)**

# Happenings in the Parks for Families

## ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**All programs are free unless otherwise noted.**

SPACES ARE LIMITED DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAINING HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMMING.

To register call 717-428-1961 or email [NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov](mailto:NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov) and include your name, number of participants, ages of children, and phone number.

### Guided Nature Walks

Sunday, Sept 5, 2:00-3:30pm  
Sunday, Sept 19, 2:00-3:30pm  
Sunday, Oct 10, 2:00-3:30pm  
Sunday, Oct 31, 2:00-3:30pm

#### Nixon Park

A park naturalist will lead a casual nature walk in search of wildlife, animal signs, and fall plants.

### Honey Bee Awareness:

#### Understanding the Swarm

Sunday, September 12, 2:00-4:00pm  
**Kain Park, Lake Redman Activity Area,**  
Join local beekeepers Anastasia & Robert Denoncourt from Cherry Lane Farm LLC to observe and learn about how honey bee swarms are helpful and benefit the environment. Participants will be able to get up close to the bees and have their questions answered.



Teen naturalists at the bee swarm 2020.

### Stream Study in the Old Mill Stream

Sunday, September 19  
**Wallace-Cross Mill, 12:30pm-1:30pm**  
Duane Hyson and Cindy Pizziketti, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, will help you understand the life found in Rambo Run. This high class trout stream is in a near pristine state and is filled with wondrous aquatic life forms. Wear a

pair of old sneakers, rain boots, or water shoes. No open-toed shoes, flip-flops, or bare feet permitted. In addition, the historic grist mill will be open for tours from 1:30-4:30pm.

### Beginner Mushroom Identification

Sunday, October 3  
**Nixon Park, 2:30-4:00pm**

This indoor and outdoor program will introduce you to a world of local fungi. Local naturalist John Dawson returns to lead this exciting program. Program begins indoors, followed by a short walk outside.

### Stream Discovery

Sunday, September 26  
**Nixon Park, 2:00-3:30pm**

A park naturalist will guide a search under rocks in the stream to find baby insects and other awesome aquatic critters. Bring extra water shoes or rain boots for walking carefully into the creek. *Park visitors may not disturb the stream or pond outside of a naturalist-led program except within the nature play area.* Appropriate for ages 5 and up with adult helper.

### Fall Costume Trail

Friday, October 22  
**Rudy Park, Pines Picnic Area, 4:00-7:00pm**  
Pre-register for a timeslot to travel along the trail with your family in your Halloween or wildlife costumes. Stop at activity stations along the way to learn all about nocturnal animals. Trail should take about an hour to complete.

### Kids Nature Play Drop-In

Fri-Sun, Nov 5-7  
Fri-Sun, Nov 12-14  
Fri-Sun, Nov 19-21  
Sat-Sun, Nov 27-28

#### Nixon Park, regular hours

Drop-in anytime to dress-up, use puppets, touch & feel natural objects, explore with short scavenger hunts & be creative. Various play stations will be available inside the nature center to explore.

### Birds of Prey Presentations

Saturday, November 13  
**Nixon Park, 10:30am & 1:00pm**  
Meet live birds during this indoor program presented by local raptor rehabilitators. See these magnificent flying hunters up close. Learn how these birds are adapted to hunting on the wing. Cameras welcome.

### Marshmallow Hike

Wednesday, December 29  
**Rocky Ridge Park, Hidden Laurel Picnic Area, Pheasant Pavilion, 1:30-3:30pm**  
Come out for a crisp stroll through the woods to search for wildlife signs & identify plants without their leaves. Learn about how animals survive the winter. Afterwards, warm up with hot chocolate and a toasty fire. BYO reusable mug.

### Kid's Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 30  
**Nixon Park, 10:00am-12:00pm**  
Children ages 8 and up will join with a birding mentor from York Audubon in small groups to participate in the annual Christmas Count. Mentors will lead teams hiking & help identify birds. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.



# Happenings in the Parks for Teens & Adults

**ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. All programs are free unless otherwise noted.** SPACES ARE LIMITED DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAINING HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMMING. To register call 717-428-1961 or email [NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov](mailto:NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov) and include your name, number of participants, ages of children, and phone number.

## HawkWatch Drop-In

Sept 1–Oct 31, 10am-2pm

**Rocky Ridge Park, Oak Timbers Parking Lot, North Overlook**

Drop-in anytime to practice identifying raptors in flight alongside naturalists and citizen scientists. Bring binoculars, field guides, lawn chairs, and dress for the weather.

## Introduction to Hawk Watching

Saturday, Sept 18

Saturday, Oct 2

**Rocky Ridge Park, Oak Timbers Parking Lot, North Overlook, 10:00am and 1:00pm**

Each fall thousands of raptor species pass over Rocky Ridge as they migrate south for the winter. Join Park Naturalists and volunteers to learn more about this extraordinary phenomenon and get an introduction to raptor identification and counting. Bring binoculars, field guides, lawn chairs, and dress for the weather. Limited number of loaner binoculars will be available.

## History and Mystery of Raab Park

Saturday, October 23

**Raab Park, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Find out how miners removed and shipped ore and see how this history has

been preserved today. Learn about efforts to conserve the bats living in some mineshafts. Meet at the parking lot on Hoff Rd. for a two-mile hike with steep terrain. Please wear proper hiking attire.

## Owl Prowl & Pellet Dissection

Saturday, December 11

**Nixon Park, 6:30-8:00pm**

Learn about the most common owl species in our area, dissect an owl pellet, and then go on a quiet hike while calling for owls. Dress for the weather. \$5/person.

## Amber and the Sticky Stuff That Many Plants Ooze

Sunday, November 21

**Virtual Program, 2:00-4:00pm**

In this virtual talk, Dr. Jorge Santiago-Blay (Smithsonian Institution), will discuss the origins of amber. Along with gums, phenolics, and other compounds, resins are plant exudates that produce the sticky and nice-smelling stuff that many plants ooze. Dr. Santiago-Blay will show many examples demonstrating the uses of resins and amber as well as show how easily we can be fooled by folks who sell human-made materials as amber.

## Project FeederWatch

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, November 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & December 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29  
**Nixon Park, 9:00am-4:00pm**

Project FeederWatch is a citizen science program in which participants identify and count birds visiting the feeders from November through early April. The collected data is forwarded to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and becomes part of a nation-wide data set which tracks winter bird population trends. Beginners are welcome. ADA accessible. One hour every other week commitment for volunteers. If you are interested, please call Nancy at 717-840-7226.

## Rain Barrel Virtual Lesson

Tuesday, September 21

**Virtual Zoom Program, 7:00pm**

During this virtual program learn about the benefits of having a rain barrel to reduce water runoff and conserve water in our watershed with Penn State Master Watershed Stewards. Then, pick-up your rain barrel kit on Saturday, Sept 25, at the Native Plant Sale at Rudy Park between 11am and 3pm, with an installation demonstration at 11am. Registration and payment is required no later than Monday, Sept 20.

# Happenings in the Parks for Young Children

## Kids Nature Play Drop-Ins

Fri-Sun, Nov 5-7

Fri-Sun, Nov 12-14

Fri-Sun, Nov 19-21

Sat-Sun, Nov 27-28

**Nixon Park, regular hours**

Drop-in anytime to dress-up, use puppets, touch & feel natural objects, explore with short scavenger hunts & be creative. Various play stations will be available inside the nature center.

## Bee Storytime

Saturday, September 11

**Nixon Park, 10am-11am**

Learn all about insects and how important they are with York County author, Josh Brandstadter and parks naturalist, Josh Detweiler.

Brandstadter's children's book, The Adventures of Fuzzy and Buzzy, will be available for purchase and signing. Program targeted at ages 3-6.

## Five-Senses Nature Walk

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17

**Nixon Park, 10am-11am**

Join a parks naturalist on a short adventure through the woods and around the pond to explore the sights, sounds, and sensations of nature.



## Native Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept 25

John Rudy Park, Pines Picnic Area,

9am-3pm



Shop from eight different native plant nurseries, explore educational booths, and enjoy lunch from The Busy Bee food truck. Learn how native plants are vital to the ecosystem and stock up on fall bloomers! No registration required.

## Fall Costume Trail

Friday, October 22

Rudy Park, Pines Picnic Area, 4:00-

7:00pm

Pre-register for a timeslot to travel along the trail with your family in your Halloween or wildlife costumes. Stop at activity stations along the way to learn all about nocturnal animals. Trail should take about an hour to complete.



## Important Hunting Dates

A parks permit (issued only August 1 - November 24) is required to hunt in the York County Parks. Sunday hunting, rifles, and pistols are never permitted.

Sept. 7-8, 13-15, 20-22

### Goose Hunting

Kain Park

Saturday, Oct. 2-Monday, Feb. 28

### All Game Commission Seasons Are Open

Apollo Park

Sat, Oct. 2-Fri, Nov. 19;

Sat, Nov. 27-Sat, Dec. 11;

& Mon, Dec. 27-Mon, Jan. 17

### Archery Season

Kain, Rocky Ridge, Spring Valley, & Raab

Sat, Oct. 16-Fri, Nov. 26;

Mon, Dec. 13-Fri, Dec. 24;

& Sat, Dec. 27-Mon, Feb. 28

### Small Game Season

Spring Valley

Sat, Nov. 27-Sat, Dec. 11

### Antlered/Antlerless Deer Hunting (Shotgun or Bow)

Spring Valley

Mon, Dec. 6-Wed, Dec. 8

### Special Shotgun/Slug Antlerless Hunt-Additional Permit Required

Kain & Rocky Ridge (Closed to the public)

Mon, Dec. 27-Mon, Jan. 17

### Antlered/Antlerless, Archery or Flintlock Muzzleloader Deer Season

Spring Valley

REMINDER: You can email your permit and waiver to

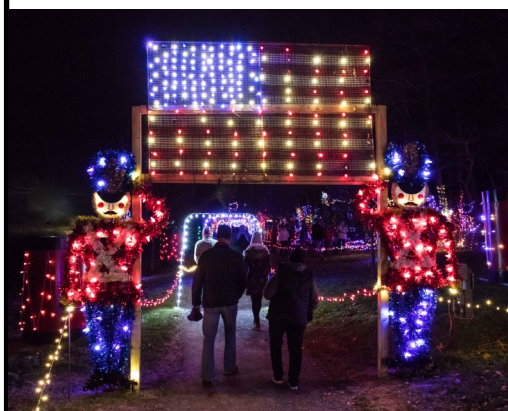
[parks@yorkcountypa.gov](mailto:parks@yorkcountypa.gov) for approval. Visit [yorkcountyparks.org](http://yorkcountyparks.org) and click on Facilities, Rentals, Permits, then Hunting.

**NO HUNTING ALLOWED: John Rudy, Highpoint Scenic Vista, Wallace Cross Mill, Native Lands, Heritage Rail Trail & Nixon Park.**

## 2021 Christmas Magic: "A Festival of Lights" at Rocky Ridge County Park



Friday, November 26 - Thursday, December 30 (Closed 12/24, 12/25, & 12/31) Timed-entry ticket sales begin mid-November at [ChristmasMagicYork.com](http://ChristmasMagicYork.com). Walk-ins not permitted.



Enjoy a walking trail through woods and open pavilions including a million twinkling lights, photo opportunities, a miniature train display, Bricker's French Fries, and our hot chocolate and cookie stand.